

## **Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee Minutes August 17, 2010**

Attendance: John Bamberger, Lynn Grabowski, Karen Kowles, Peter Lillya, Fran VanTreese, Eve Vogel (non-voting, swearing in pending), Glenn Barrington (UMass Transit), David Elvin (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission working with PVTa), Niels La Cour (UMass Facilities Planning), Guilford Mooring (Superintendent of Public Works-Town of Amherst), Richard Roznoy (Planning Board), Walter Wolnik (guest).

**Meeting** came to order at 4:15 pm, Town Room, Town Hall

Glenn Barrington presented **final ridership data for the Fy10**. Annual ridership on route #32 was 36579, 220 (0.6%) below that of FY09.

**Voted** (5 yes, 0 no) to request a new stop on the #32 bus route at Rte 63 and Summer St. Karen will send our request to Town Mgr Schaffer.

### **Introduced:**

**David Elving** (PVTa Planning) Will be PVTa liaison to PTBC. A regional transportation plan for 2011-2015 is now being planned.

**Richard Roznoy** (Planning Board member) focus area is transportation improvements.

**Plans for roadwork and associated modifications** were presented by Guilford Mooring.

### **Big Y-University Drive intersection.**

<<http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?nid=1352> > Plans were approved (4 yes, 1 abstain) with the understanding that the pedestrian lights at University Drive and Rte. 9 will be fixed.

### **Safe routes to School - Wildwood Elementary.**

<<http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?nid=1351>> (Mr. La Cour assisted in the presentation) The Committee viewed the plans favorable but took on formal position. Committee members expressed support for lights on Strong St., a sidewalk on N. Whitney St. to connect the proposed sidewalk on Red Gate Lane (Secondary recommendation 5, Preliminary Assessment Report) with the Skillings Path, and a sidewalk on the east side of E. Pleasant St. north of Strong St.

There were reservations about the cost (\$102,000) of the proposed bike shelter at Wildwood School and the small number of secure spaces this expenditure would provide. It was felt that deletion of the shelter and provision of more spaces would be a more efficient use of funds.

### **Rte. 116 Resurfacing.**

<<http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?nid=1171>> The project does not include significant widening of the paved surface. Because it is under control of Mass DOT, standard painted line and travel lane widths have allowed too little space for bicycle lanes. Wider lanes for bicycle traffic will be provided when the Town

repaints the lines. The Committee is eager to see full bicycle lanes on Rte. 116, and will discuss this with Superintendent Mooring at a later meeting.

**North Amherst Planning/Rezoning.** Planning is in early stage with no consultant hired. The PTBC is eager to advocate creation of a “North Amherst Bike Path” or multi-use trail as part of planning for N. Amherst. Discussion proceeded with the participation of Neils La Cour (UMass facilities Planning), who participated in earlier discussions of this route. As previously envisaged, the “**North Amherst Bike Path**” would follow the current cinder path from the northern UMass campus to the University Apartments. From this point it might follow parking lots of the several apartment complexes to Meadow St. or connect to N. Pleasant St. north of Puffton Apartments.

**Richard Roznoy** of the Planning Board is interested in public transportation improvements and offered to work with the PTBC if it elects to participate in development of a comprehensive plan for public transportation for the Town.

Committee members are interested in this but a formal vote on participation was reserved for a later meeting.

**Meeting adjourned** at 6:10 pm.

**Minutes of 13 July** have not yet been approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Lillya, secretary.